each district of the country. At present, 545 JNVs are functioning throughout the country. Amounts of Rs. 710.00 crore under Plan and Rs. 173.40 crore under Non-Plan have been allocated for the Navodaya Vidyalayas during 2007-08. Vidyalayas are opened in the districts not having such Vidyalayas provided the concerned State/UT Governments make available 30 acres of land free of cost for locating the school and also subject to the State Government making available suitable temporary accommodation for running the school till the permanent building is constructed.

Improving the education programmes at IITs

2152. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the description of IITs as factories, churning out high quality engineers;

(b) whether it is a fact that students refuse to pursue masters and doctoral programmes;

(c) if so, to what extent IITs have failed to create more doctoral students and research oriented education at IITs;

(d) the steps proposed to improve the masters and doctoral programmes at IITs; and

(e) the other steps proposed by Government to create motivation and incentives, to encourage research and doctoral studies at these centres of excellence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are imparting high quality/engineering and scientific education and producing world class engineers and scientists with all round development of personality, enabling them to become excellent engineers, researchers, software professionals, managers, etc. The Masters and Doctoral Programmes of these Institutes have always been in demand.

(d) and (e) Numerous steps are being taken to motivate engineering graduates to pursue post-graduate and research programmes in IITs which include introduction of 5-year Dual Degree programmes (B.Tech and M.Tech), 5-year Integrated M.Tech and M.Sc courses, awarding assistantship to M.Tech./Doctoral students, direct enrolment of good B.Tech. students to Ph.D. programmes, introduction of high value fellowships/scholarships, etc.

Establishment of world class universities

2153. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has recommended to establish 14 world class universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the current status thereof;

(c) whether these universities are likely to be established under public-private partnership and if so, what would be the structure of fees, etc.;

(d) whether Government have prescribed the maximum limit of fees to be charged by the private universities; and,

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Eleventh Plan has not been finalised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The University Grants Commission has constituted a Committee in August, 2007 to formulate regulations for admission and fee for aided and unaided educational institutions including Private Universities.

Educationally backward districts

2154. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of districts in the country are educationally backward;

(b) if so, the names of such districts, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts Government are making in this regard to promote education in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) State-wise list of Special Focus Districts identified by the Ministry is given in Statement (*See* below). Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas scheme and the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level as components of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, target educationally backward blocks. During the Eleventh Plan, resources permitting, it is proposed to incentivise State Governments to establish one college in each district with a low Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education, *i.e.* lower than the national average.

Statement

State-wise list of special focus districts

Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts	Sl. No.	Districts
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh		**Gujarat**			**Manipur**
1.	Adilabad	1.	Dangs	1.	Tamenlong
2.	Khammam	2.	Panchmahals		